

The CAPITOL HILL MONITOR

DECEMBER 1993

STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENTS

by Alan Henney

Washingtonians have long been known for their frantic behavior before, during and even after snowstorms. Unlike the average Washingtonians, however, scanner listeners have the potential to be better informed in the event of snow. In addition to the police and fire channels, scanner listeners can also monitor some of the interesting activity during winter snows over the state highway channels.



Maryland State Highway Administration

The Maryland State Highway Administration, SHA, has one of the more developed statewide highway communications systems in our area. Each of the seven

SHA districts cover from two to five counties. The statewide channel is 47.32. All districts, except District 6 (Allegany, Garrett, & Washington Counties), has a separate working channel. District 6 uses 47.32 as their working channel.

While monitoring SHA's frequencies in the winter, you'll hear snow plows clear interstate, federal and state highways. Municipal governments concentrate on the secondary roads.

The SHA communications center, at BWI Airport, provides comprehensive weather reports over the radio at 7 a.m., 8 a.m., noon and at 6 p.m. and more often during periods of severe weather. In addition,

special weather announcements, status of emergency snow plans and civil defense bulletins (usually drills) may be transmitted over 47.32 at any time.

When individual district headquarters close for the day, much of the administration's remaining radio traffic shifts to 47.32. This includes coordination of beach traffic and emergency road repairs.

In addition to the seven SHA districts, the Harbor Tunnel, Bay Bridge, Mass Transit Administration, MVA, State Aviation Administration, Friendship, among others, routinely monitor 47.32 for coordination purposes. The Maryland Emergency Management Agency, MEMA, often conducts disaster drills over 47.32 as well.

Maryland State Highway Administration Channels:

47.3200 Ch. 1: Statewide and District 6
47.2600 Ch. 2: Districts 5 and 7
47.4000 Ch. 3: Districts 1 and 4
47.1400 Ch. 4: District 2
47.2000 Ch. 5: District 3
458.9625 Extender for the 47 MHz radio

The CTCSS frequency for all five 47 MHz channels is 94.8 Hz.

SHA crews identify their vehicles using three and four-digit designations. Vehicles not assigned to a specific district use the three-digit designations. Vehicles assigned to a specific district use four-digit designations; the first digit denoting the district, and the second digit denoting the county.

In lieu of county names, SHA uses numbers or letters in its weather reports. National Weather Service reports use the weather zone numbers. The Weather Service Corporation, a



Season's Greetings



contractual weather service, uses the letters in its reports. Both are included below.

SHA Districts, Counties Covered and Weather Zones

District 1 (Headquarters in Salisbury, KGG850)

1 B Dorchester
1 A Somerset
1 A Wicomico
1 A Worcester

District 2 (Headquarters in Chestertown, WQK875)

2 B Caroline
3 E Cecil
2 B Kent
2 B Queen Anne's
2 B Talbot

District 3 (Headquarters in Greenbelt, WQK876)

5 F Montgomery
5 D Prince George's

District 4 (Headquarters in Owings Mills, WQK336)

6 E Baltimore
6 E Harford
5 E Baltimore City

District 5 (Headquarters in Annapolis, KBQ265)

5 D Anne Arundel
4 C Calvert
4 C Charles
4 C Saint Mary's

District 6 (Headquarters in Cumberland, KGG931)

8 G Allegany
9 H Garrett
7 G Washington

District 7 (Headquarters in Frederick, KGG842)

7 F Carroll
7 F Frederick
5 F Howard

Virginia Department of Transportation

VDOT divides the Commonwealth into nine construction districts. Because of its size and topography, VDOT has no statewide centralized communications center. Local operations are conducted out of several residency offices within each district. Each residency serves one or more counties. In turn, the residencies are divided into areas, each with a headquarters. Each office has base-station capability for the channels used in its district.



VDOT areas do not follow county lines, but rather the state and federal road network. All VDOT units have a unique radio identification number. The first two digits identify the residency and the last two digits are assigned to units within an area.

One important VDOT facility worth mentioning is the \$25 million VDOT Traffic Management System (TMS) building on Columbia Pike in Arlington. Built in June of 1985, the facility monitors 48 cameras, 550 pavement sensors and controls the reversible lanes on I-395 and operates 100 changeable highway signs. TMS also controls the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes and ramp meters (the computer-controlled signals on selected interstate ramps).

Areas monitored by TMS include: I-395 from the Potomac River to Springfield, I-95 between the Wilson bridge and I-395; and I-66 from the Potomac River to Nutley Street. By 1996 nearly 70 miles of roadway will be monitored, including an additional 17 miles on I-66 from Nutley Street to Gainesville and 19 miles on I-95 between Springfield and Quantico Creek. TMS personnel and the Safety Service Patrol communicate on 47.28.

Three eight-hour VDOT-Safety Service Patrol shifts help stranded motorists on seven routes across northern Virginia. VDOT Safety Patrols can communicate with VSP troopers on 154.665. (VSP Tactical Channel) When doing so, they identify using a number in the 400's. The VDOT Safety Service Patrols operate orange VDOT pickup trucks which should not be confused with the white Motorist Assistance Patrol sedans and 4-Wheel Drive vehicles with amber lights operated by VSP. These, in turn, should not be confused with the DMV enforcement vehicles. VSP, by the way, operates 15 Motorist Assistance Patrol vehicles in the Washington area. Their radio communications are on the normal VSP radio system.

VDOT Frequencies

47.2200 Ch. 1: Bristol, Fredericksburg, Lynchburg, Northern Virginia and Staunton Districts
47.3400 Ch. 2: Culpeper and Richmond Districts
47.2800 Ch. 3: TMS, Safety Service Patrols, Manassas Residency and Suffolk Districts
47.3000 Ch. 4: Salem District

VDOT uses no CTCSS on the 47 MHz channels. In addition to the 47 MHz channels, VDOT recently licensed 45.76 and 453.4125 for statewide use. We have yet to monitor VDOT on either frequency -- any thoughts? Specialized VDOT systems such as the Virginia Beach-Norfolk Expressway, Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel and other selected bridges/tunnels in Norfolk and Portsmouth communicate on 33.06, 47.34, 154.025 and 453.85. The Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike has been closed as a toll road and incorporated into the Richmond District.

VDOT Construction Districts and Counties Covered

1 Bristol (Bland, Buchanan, Dickenson, Grayson, Lee, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, Wise and Wythe)

2 Salem (Bedford, Botetourt, Carroll, Craig, Floyd, Franklin, Giles, Henry, Montgomery, Patrick, Pulaski and Roanoke)

3 Lynchburg (Amherst, Appomattox, Buckingham, Campbell, Charlotte, Cumberland, Halifax, Nelson, Pittsylvania and Prince Edward)

4 Richmond (Amelia, Brunswick, Charles City, Chesterfield, City of Richmond, Dinwiddie, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, New Kent, Nottoway, Powhatan and Prince George)

5 Suffolk (Accomack, Chesapeake, Hampton, Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Suffolk and Virginia Beach, Greenville, Isle of Wight, James City, Northampton, Southampton, Surry, Sussex and York)

6 Fredericksburg (Caroline, Essex, Gloucester, King George, King William, King & Queen, Lancaster, Mathews, Middlesex, Northumberland, Richmond, Spotsylvania, Stafford and Westmoreland)

7 Culpeper (Albemarle, Culpeper, Fauquier, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa, Madison, Orange and Rappahannock)

8 Staunton (Alleghany, Augusta, Bath, Clarke, Frederick, Highland, Page, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Shenandoah and Warren)

9 Northern Virginia (Arlington, City of Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William)

District of Columbia Public Works

In the District, nearly any city-owned truck capable of pushing a plow is likely to be drafted during a snowstorm. All of the trucks come from one of several DPW administrations which operate on 37.1, 37.94, 453.45 or 453.75 (all CTCSS 151.4 Hz). Of special importance is the Snow Room (AKA "Control 10A") which operates primarily on 453.45.

Delaware Department of Transportation

In Delaware, DOT crews operate on one of two channels. DelDOT crews frequently communicate on both channels, even though only one channel is officially assigned to each county. Traffic crews ("TR" units) assigned to beach traffic, for example, routinely operate on both channels. During beach season, the Dover headquarters provides the results (known as "the count") of the car counting devices every hour during periods of peak weekend traffic on 47.22. DelDOT uses no CTCSS.

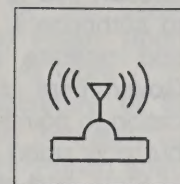
DelDOT Frequencies

47.2200 Ch. 1: New Castle and Sussex Counties
47.3400 Ch. 2: Kent County

WASHINGTON EMBASSIES OPERATE VHF/UHF RADIO SYSTEMS

by Alan Henney and Dr. Willard Hardman

Embassies in the United States have long used shortwave bands for communication back to their home countries with the blessings of the US government. USC Section 305 of Title 47 permits the US president to "authorize a foreign government, under such terms and conditions as may be prescribed," to operate a fixed HF or satellite radio communication system without a license for 'transmission of its messages to points outside the United States..."



The Communications Act of 1934 has prohibited foreign governments, including embassies, from holding FCC licenses. While this rule hampers foreign government radio users, including embassies, from operating VHF and UHF radio systems, it has not stopped several such entities from operating on these bands in the Washington area.

To begin with, notes NTIA's Bill Gamble, services provided by radio common carriers, such as mobile telephones, pagers and even leased two-way radios, pose no conflict with the 1934 act since subscribers are not required to hold an FCC license.

Since the FCC and NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administration) are not permitted to grant licenses to foreign governments, says a State Department telecommunications specialist, embassies requiring their own radio frequencies for communication in the Washington area are supposed to contact the State Department to obtain permission.

In general, VHF and UHF frequencies granted to foreign governments are intended for temporary use, such as when a head-of-state comes to town. As some scanner listeners may recall, during Gorbachev's last summit, the Soviet Union operated several radio nets on 169.1, 169.7 and 169.75, among other frequencies.

Foreign governments in Washington are discouraged from operating on the VHF and UHF bands, but some do nevertheless -- with and sometimes without the blessings of the US government. Staff at the Canadian Embassy, for example, use Motorola HT600 UHF portable radios for in-house communication. Other embassies, such as the British Embassy, reportedly operate similar radio systems.

During a recent visit to the Canadian Embassy, the UHF band was searched for the embassy's frequency for two hours without success. If you can help, please do! Kindly share with us any frequencies or details regarding radio systems used by other embassies or foreign government entities in the Washington area. Thanks!

Since many of the radio systems operated by foreign governments in the metro area are either leased or are totally unofficial, NTIA has no knowledge of the frequen-

cies used. NTIA essentially "licenses" federal/military users of the radio spectrum -- unlike the FCC which licenses civilian users.

Section 902 of Title 47 grants NTIA the authority to authorize a "foreign government to construct and operate a radio station at the seat of Government of the United States [for communication to points outside of the United States only, but only upon recommendation of the Secretary of State and after consultation with the Attorney General and the Chairman of the Commission."

In the few cases in which a foreign government successfully petitions the US government for a VHF or UHF frequency to use in Washington, the State Department becomes the "surrogate" licensee in the NTIA database. The Islamic-Saudi Academy in northern Virginia is an interesting example. In spite of the fact the academy is an entity of a foreign government, it managed to get an FCC license for a popular two-watt business allocation, 154.57, under call sign WNUH696 for its Richmond Highway facility in Alexandria.

The Islamic-Saudi Academy, nominally operated by Saudi Arabia, provides grade school and high school education for that part of the diplomatic community from predominately Muslim countries, at no expense to the US taxpayer. The school is similar to the US operated State and Defense Department Schools for US dependents in overseas areas. (Similar schools exist in the metro area, operated by other nations as well, such as Germany, but radio use, if any is unknown.)

At the academy's other location, on Popes Head Road in Fairfax, we've confirmed security operating on a State Department allocation, 168.35, with a DCS code of 315. NTIA has allocated 168.35 to the State Department in its database since the academy doesn't qualify for a license. Besides the license for 154.57, the academy was able to obtain a second FCC license, this time for a five-channel leased trunked system (861-865.8625) under call sign KNJY884 at the Fairfax site. We have yet to confirm academy operations on the trunked system or on 154.57.

SPECIALS

FAIRFAX FIRE GETS NEW CHANNEL CONFIGURATION (AGAIN)

As noted in last month's newsletter, Fairfax County fire has procured a sixth repeater, on 460.125, at the WTMW "Channel 14" tower!

460.125 was a Fairfax County police frequency sometimes used by the police helicopters. Channel 14 and Fairfax County fire hope the new site will reduce the desense now experienced on the other five fire repeaters because of Channel 14's strong signal. The county radio shop, says Fairfax County Fire Marshal Sean McClanahan, is programming the fire department's Motorola MT1000 radios with the following configuration.

460.575 Ch. 1 repeater/7 talkaround "Tac 1"
460.600 Ch. 2 repeater/8 talkaround "Tac 2"
460.625 Ch. 3 repeater/9 talkaround "Tac 3"
460.550 Ch. 4 repeater/10 talkaround "Tac 4"
460.525 Ch. 5 repeater/11 talkaround "Tac 5"
460.125 Ch. 6 repeater/12 talkaround "Tac 6"
458.250 Ch. 13 "Tac 7"
462.950 Ch. 14 "Med 9"
463.175 Ch. 15 "Med 8"
463.075 Ch. 16 "Med 4"



DCFD ENGINE 3 UPDATE

To follow up the announcement in last month's newsletter regarding the closing of DCFD Engine 3, Gene Lichtman, the fire department's historian, provides us with some updates.

Engine 3, Gene says, is now sitting in the shop. Ambulance 15, meanwhile, has been reassigned to Engine 2, 500 F St NW. The antiques were moved to engines 11 and 17. Reserve Truck 13 remains in the now-closed firehouse at 439 New Jersey Ave NW.

ESPN UPDATE

In the October newsletter we ran a story on area sports arenas where we asked sports fans to be on the lookout for ESPN frequencies. WUSA's photo-journalist Greg Guise called to let us know that ESPN sports crews, while at RFK, operated a low-power system in the 580 to 583 MHz band (in TV Channel 32). During the last Sunday-night game at RFK, Greg says ESPN operated on 580.15, 580.75, 582.4 and 582.65. Thanks Greg!

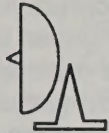
AND STILL ANOTHER TAKE-OUT TAXI FREQUENCY...

Our take-out taxi specialist, John Korman, wanted to let us know he's confirmed the jurisdictions covered by the area take-out taxis reported in the October newsletter. In

addition, we have a third such frequency to report (all of which appear below). While on the subject of food, John Scott notes that the drive-thru radios used at the new Taco Bell at 4021 Bladensburg Rd operate on 464.9625 [151.4 Hz].

Take-Out Taxis:

461.275 [118.8 Hz] Northern Virginia
463.325 [151.4 Hz] Montgomery County and NW DC
463.975 [173.8 Hz] Prince George's County



PAPERS PRINT SECRET SERVICE CODE NAMES

A search of the NEXIS database uncovered 17 newspaper and magazine articles which printed Clinton's and

Gore's Secret Service code names between January 1992 and October 1993.

Gore's former code name, Sawhorse, drew the most attention by far. "Sawhorse is the Veep," writes the British Guardian newspaper, "which seems most unfair as Al Gore is surely one of nature's tree-huggers rather than hackers." Sawhorse, the Washington Times said, is "a name that is perhaps a trifle unfeeling for the somewhat wooden Al Gore." Newsday added that "Vice President Al Gore is often described as having a wooden personality, and his Secret Service code name - 'Sawhorse' - is unlikely to help him shed his stiff image." The Orlando Sentinel Tribune asked if "Sawhorse" was "a hint about his wooden personality?"

Earlier this year Gore decided he had enough and requested a new code name. The British press was among the first to break the story. "Tree-hugging Al Gore did indeed object, strongly, to being code-named Sawhorse by the US Secret Service," notes the Jan. 28, 1993 Guardian newspaper. "They have re-renamed him Sundance. 'You can call me Butch,' Eagle [Clinton] drawled to his Vice-President at the end of yesterday's Cabinet meeting."

What's surprising is that some scanner listeners, not to mention scanner publications, haven't yet realized that Gore's code name is no longer Sawhorse (American and British newspapers published the change back in January)!

The Orlando Sentinel wins the award for publishing the most code names. "What's in a code name? It's not much of a secret," reads headline on the July 17, 1993 Sentinel.

"The code names used by the Secret Service for presidents and other dignitaries are seldom secret because they are assigned by the White House

Communications Agency, which makes little effort to keep them confidential," the Sentinel claimed. "In the Clint Eastwood movie In the Line of Fire, the president is frequently referred to by his code name, 'Traveler.'"

Here are the code names printed by the Sentinel: President Clinton - "Eagle." First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton - "Evergreen." Vice President Al Gore - "Sundance." Tipper Gore - "Skylark." Secretary of State Warren Christopher - "Foxtail." Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen - "Fencing Master." US Capitol - "Punch Bowl."

An April issue of People magazine rounds off this list with the code names from former administrations, which are still in use: Ronald Reagan - "Rawhide." George Bush - "Timberwolf." Dan Quayle - "Scorecard."

NEWSSCAN

by Brent Baker

MPD ENHANCES ITS
POWER SHIFT. DC Police Chief Fred Thomas has announced plans to put several hundred additional officers on the street at night.



According to the Nov. 16 Washington Times, before mid-November "two-thirds of approximately 3,000 officers in the department's patrol division had been rotating their schedules, working 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for two weeks and then 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. two weeks. The officers who work 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. do not rotate their schedules. Under the new plan, the department froze all schedules of those officers working the 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. shift through the end of the year. Police commanders will also reassign 15 percent to 20 percent of the officers now working the early shift to a 'power shift,' or a detail that patrols from either 6 p.m. to 2 a.m. or from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m."

In addition, "about 20 percent of the officers now working in technical or administrative positions will be deployed during the 'power shifts' in the 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th police districts, where most of the violence occurs. District commanders will extend some shifts to 12 hours and rearrange schedules so more officers will be working on Friday and Saturday nights."

The FBI, DEA, US Park Police, among other police departments, the Times added, "have nearly completed a detailed plan to commit a specific number of officers and equipment to the Metropolitan Police Department in coming months."

COOPERATION INCREASING BETWEEN US CAPITOL POLICE AND MPD: Since last September, when Congress expanded the Capitol Police's jurisdiction to a seven-block area around the Capitol, there has been no increase in manpower in the expanded jurisdiction, Capitol Police Chief Gary Abrecht told Roll Call's Mary

Jacoby. Capitol Police, says Roll Call, were "given arrest authority in this area but were not directed to patrol it actively."

Of the 1,400 arrests the Capitol Police made last year, Abrecht noted, about half were made in the new jurisdiction. Many of those arrested, however, were arrested repeatedly for protesting in support of DC statehood. The Capitol Police expanded its jurisdiction last year from approximately H Street in the north to M Street in the south, and from Seventh Street in the east to Third Street in the west (see last November's CHM newsletter for details).

The most positive aspect of the change, Abrecht noted, has been increased communication and cooperation between the Capitol and Metropolitan police departments. "Capitol Police opened direct radio communications with Metropolitan Police," noted the Nov. 8 Roll Call, "which means the two forces can now talk to each other."

Capitol Police dispatchers have consistently monitored the MPD First District's channel, 460.35, for years. But now, Capitol Police cruisers routinely communicate with MPD officers on 460.35, where they identify as "Capitol Cruiser" followed by the three-digit radio number used over the Capitol Police channels. The only Capitol Police officers noted communicating directly with MPD on 460.35, so far, are sergeants assigned to the Capitol Police's Patrol Division.

The Capitol Police has 106 officers in its Patrol Division, which guards Congressional property on foot, bike, motorcycle, in cars and with dogs. The number of officers assigned to the Patrol Division represents about 9 percent of the 1,124-member Capitol Police force. Most officers are assigned to the Capitol and Congressional office buildings, Abrecht added.

Resources at MPD's First District's substation, which covers the Hill, include 13 motorcycles, ten patrol cars and seven bicycles. The substation, the only remaining MPD substation, identifies as "1-D-1" and operates on the First District's channel.

Capitol Police will likely be more active in helping MPD make arrests on the Hill and in transporting prisoners, Senator Harry Reid told Roll Call. Reid is chairman of the Appropriations legislative branch subcommittee which allocates appropriations for the Capitol Police.

After Clinton rejected Mayor Kelly's request for authority to call out the National Guard, said the Nov. 18 Roll Call, the Clinton administration conceived an idea to deploy some of the DC area's estimated 14,000 federal law enforcement officers in local crime-fighting efforts. The proposal is currently in its planning stages.

MAYOR KELLY STILL HOPING TO CALL OUT THE GUARD: According to Kelly spokesman Vada Manager, says the Oct. 4 Washington Times, the mayor holds up the success of the National Guard's deployment in Sumter, a city of 42,000, as a model for the District. If

Kelly's proposal is approved, two Guard members would travel with each police officer in targeted areas of the city from Friday evenings through Sunday mornings, the Times reported.

DC Guard members would not make arrests, but might help police identify and detain suspects. Whether to arm the Guard, if used, has not been decided, Manager noted. "'In most operations or models that we've seen, they have been armed. And the issue of the use of that firepower has been left open,' he said."

A spokesman for the National Guard, Maj. Mike Milord, told the Times that the Guard was prepared to work with law enforcement agencies, but, if called into service, "control of the Guard would remain under the Guard." Milord could not confirm Manager's estimate that the mayor was considering a Guard deployment of about 150 troops throughout the city. According to a recent National Guard survey, Manager said, about 130 Guard members "with some military police training" indicated they were interested in volunteering for such an effort.

The last time Guard troops were called up in the District was when 700 members aided in crowd control during President Clinton's inauguration, Maj. Milord said. The Guard in that instance had the power to make arrests, he said, "but they didn't use that power." The DC National Guard has been helping light the streets and providing police assistance to the city ever since Congress expanded the Guard's role to include anti-drug efforts in 1989.

"Units have assisted police by offering 'auxiliary services' - illuminating crime areas with high-intensity lights, helping with roadblocks, providing such equipment as helicopters when needed for special cases and sharing the skills of their computer experts and auto mechanics," the Times added. Refer to last month's newsletter for frequencies and more details regarding the DC National Guard.

MPD RECEIVES FREE MOTORCYCLES: The Edgewood Manor Corp., the owner of the 535-unit Brookland Manor apartment complex at Rhode Island and Montana Avenues NE, recently donated four motorcycles to the Metropolitan Police Department's 5th District.

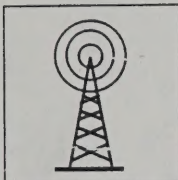
MPD hesitated accepting the motorcycles, wrote Washington Post reporter Linda Wheeler. According to her article, "Police officials wanted the bikes but didn't want to promise special treatment to get them... 'It gets real sticky,' said Capt. Dennis Brown, a police commander who helped arrange the presentation. 'As a government agency providing a service to the community, we can't... accept property on an agreement to serve a certain segment of the community.'"

MPD resolved the potential conflict by insisting the motorcycles come with a legal form stating the bikes are the sole property of the department, which will make the decision on how to deploy them.

"According to Jace Greene, Edgewood Manor Corp.'s senior executive, the idea for giving the motorcycles grew

out of a series of meetings about crime at Brookland Manor. Police officials, he said, kept telling him the department did not have enough officers and equipment to individually patrol specific neighborhoods in the 5th District. At a meeting in March, the talk turned to what the department needed."

Greene's group, says the Post, decided to spend \$11,600 on the four bikes -- even without the promise of special treatment. MPD made no promises, but Brown told the Post "it wasn't by accident" that the motorcycles were soon assigned to patrol the Brookland Manor neighborhood.



NEW, HIGHER TOWER FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY. At its Nov. 15 meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the construction of a new 350-foot radio tower at the West Springfield Government Center for use by the police and fire departments. The county property at 6140 Rolling Rd includes fire Station 27 and police District 7 headquarters.

Some residents had opposed the tower, considering it unsightly. They also noted that the two other proposed tower users, Cellular One (which will pay to build it) and Media General (the local cable TV company), require only a 120-foot height. But David Mullet, director of the county's communications division, told the Fairfax Journal: "There are numerous spots throughout the county where we have marginal public safety communications" and the new tower "allows us penetration into these valleys and stream beds." The tower will replace a 110-foot tower built in 1983.

During the board meeting, Mullet explained that "there are numerous locations" in West Springfield "where we have marginal or unacceptable public safety communications. This tower will eliminate these communication problems... this tower will serve as the cornerstone of our long-range public safety communications plans." In addition, it will be used by county school buses on 800 MHz.

Apparently referring to portable radio coverage, Springfield District Supervisor Elaine McConnell said that "sometimes when our men and women get out of their car and are using their telephones we have spots there where they are not able to communicate and it is dangerous."

It appears as if the county plans to use the new tower to improve the police department's current 800 MHz system and later for the proposed multi-agency 800 MHz trunked system mentioned by Jack Anderson at CHM's October meeting. Any thoughts? Does the county use the current tower as a remote receiver for the fire department?

CELLPHONE COMPANIES CHOOSE UNFORTUNATE SLOGANS: The Oct. 10 Washington Post published "unfortunate advertising slogans" which included...

Cellular One Telephone: "We Don't Give You a Lot of Talk."

Bell Atlantic Cellular Phones: "When You Talk, We Listen."

* * *

BOOK REVIEW: CLEM SMALL'S ANTENNA HANDBOOK

by Alan Henney

Monitoring Times' antenna specialist, Clem Small, compiled his vast knowledge of antennas into this useful and reasonably priced (\$13) handbook. Almost half of his 200-page book is dedicated to details on the various types of antennas (half-wave dipoles, ground plane, beam, multi and wide-band, low and medium-frequency, direction finding, vehicular, marine and pedestrian). Clem's book, I find, is an especially good reference for details on the various types of antennas.

Clem, who covers the full spectrum of antennas in his book, dedicates a large portion of his publication to the technical side of antennas (signal field-strength, signal propagation, design considerations, measuring, conserving and guiding RF energy, etc.). He also includes sections on antenna history, accessories, trouble-shooting, testing, antenna orientation, construction and towers.

Grove Enterprises has an excellent reputation among scanner and shortwave enthusiasts. The Grove catalog is full of useful tips, radio equipment and numerous radio-oriented publications.

This month's review book was provided by the publisher, Grove Enterprises. For more details write Grove Enterprises, at its new address, 300 South Highway 64 West, Brasstown, NC 28902 or call 1-800-438-8155. Views and comments appearing in this review do not necessarily reflect those of CHM or represent an endorsement.

* * *

DON'T LET ANYONE TELL YOU THAT NOTHING EVER HAPPENS IN ROCKVILLE!

by John Korman

If you were not monitoring 494.7125, the Montgomery County Rockville channel, on the afternoon of Nov. 3, you missed a big event! Around 2:30 p.m., one of the Adam 3 beat cars says "We have a subject who bailed out of the car." Moments later, the same officer requests "We need more units out here, on Cove Lane near Baltimore Road."

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After realizing that Rockville High School was just down the street, an officer requested more assistance and asked the dispatcher to alert the school. Police officers also called in the MSP Trooper 8 helicopter to help search the nearby woods. Officers on the search switched to channel 6, 495.3625, while the rest of the district remained on channel 1. In spite of the extensive manhunt, the suspects got away.

It was great excitement to monitor this event take place in real life, not re-enacted. Scanner listeners might think nothing happens in Rockville and may not monitor the Rockville police district. If one monitors the right frequency as the right time, that right time is big!

Please address all correspondence to Alan. We encourage readers to submit material and to write articles which relate to the hobby. All submissions are subject to editing for both style and content. When submitting material please make certain we have your phone number should we have any questions. We welcome frequency and visitor requests, but please include a SASE.

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The Capitol Hill Monitor is the non-profit monthly newsletter of the Capitol Hill Monitors. The newsletter keeps scanner enthusiasts abreast of local meetings, frequency profiles and other topics of interest. Dues (which includes 12 issues) are \$8. Kindly make checks payable to Alan Henney.

Meeting Coordinators:

Mike Peyton, Maryland Coordinator (703-902-6241)
Ken Fowler, Virginia Coordinator (703-385-2165)

Capitol Hill Monitor's Scanner/Shortwave Net:

Listen for the CHM net, hosted by Ken Fowler, at 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month on 146.91 MHz.

Frequency Forum Computer Bulletin Board:

We encourage computer users to log onto Jack Anderson's Frequency Forum computer BBS at 703-207-9622 (8-N-1). Frequency Forum is the official electronic gathering place for readers of the Capitol Hill Monitor!